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INFO IGAD COLLECTIVE

Tuesday, 12 January 2010, 15:13

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 NAIROBI 000059

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

FOR A/S CARSON AND NSC SENIOR DIRECTOR GAVIN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 12958 DECL: 2020/01/12

TAGS PREL, PGOV, KCOR, KE

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TO ADVANCE THE REFORM AGENDA

REF: 09 NAIROBI 1811; 10 NAIROBI 31; 10 NAIROBI 50; 10 NAIROBI 11 09 NAIROBI 2485; 09 NAIROBI 2483; 09 NAIROBI 2475; 09 NAIROBI 2401

CLASSIFIED BY: Michael E. Ranneberger, Ambassador, DOS, EXEC; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

11. (C) Summary: Our highest priority efforts are focused on advancing implementation of the reform agenda, which is key to the future democrat

U.S. Policy and Central Importance of Reform Agenda

12. (C) Advancing implementation of the reform agenda is the central objective of U.S. policy in Kenya. Achieving this is key to ensure the fut

13. (C) That said, there are dynamics at play which create an historic opportunity to achieve progress. First, the unprecedented post-election

Some Positive Steps

14. (C) As we have reported, the coalition government has demonstrated some progress on reforms in the past two years due to all of the dynamic
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Independent Electoral Commission is up and running, and the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission will soon begin its work. XXXXXXXXXXXX

Culture of Impunity Works to Forestall Fundamental Reform

15. (C) These are positive achievements, but most are only first steps. Those associated with the culture of impunity are working hard to limit

Key Reforms Not Yet Undertaken

16. (C) Thus, while some initial progress has been made, the reforms needed to bring about fundamental change have not yet been achieved. No si

Positive Impact of U.S. Policy and Actions

17. (C) Though daunting, key elements of the reform agenda are achievable. Consistent and intense U.S. pressure and support - privately and pul
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extensive outreach to civil society, religious groups, the media, and the private sector to urge more concerted efforts to press for implements

18. (C) We are coordinating this intensive push on the reform agenda through an inter-agency Mission Task Force. The Task Force, which I chair

19. (C) This multi-faceted approach is having a marked impact among the Kenyan people and politicians. The U.S. push for reform is clearly view

110. (C) While the culture of impunity and the grip of the old guard political elite on the levers of state power and resources remain largely

111. (C) U.S. efforts are also contributing to something less tangible but equally important: a dynamic of change percolating throughout Kenya.

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guard's strategy is to do just enough to placate the people, Annan, and us, while trying to avoid fundamental change in the system. However, th

112. (C) In essence, we are on the right track. Obtaining further, decisive progress will require sustained, intensive high-level U.S. engageme